



COMMANDER  
NAVAL AIR FORCES  
**Press Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 41 Receives Commander Theodore G. Ellyson Aviator Production Excellence Award**

CORONADO, Calif. (NNS) -- Commander, Naval Air Forces presented the Cmdr. Theodore G. Ellyson Aviator Production Excellence Award to the "Seahawks" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 41 at Naval Air Station North Island, California, July 1.

The award is named in honor of Cmdr. Theodore G. Ellyson, who was the first naval officer to undergo aviation training and who was designated Naval Aviator #1 in January 1914. Ellyson was instrumental in the development of all facets of Naval Aviation, including the establishment of the first flight training sites at Annapolis, Maryland, and San Diego, California.

The award is presented annually to the most efficient Naval Air Force Pacific and Naval Air Force Atlantic fleet replacement squadron (FRS), Marine Corps squadron, and two training squadrons from Chief of Naval Air Training that excel at meeting fleet training requirements.

As the West Coast MH-60R Seahawk FRS, HSM-41's performance and production efficiency in fiscal year 2013 were exemplary, producing 142 fleet replacement pilots and 54 fleet replacement aircrew.

"I measure success in a lot of ways," said Commander, Naval Air Forces, Vice Adm. David H. Buss. "Partially by the hours flown, partially by the number of aircraft maintained and partially by the number of aircrew and pilots trained each year. But mostly, I measure a squadron's success by the excellence in what they do day in and day out. HSM-41 has led the way for the Romeo community for a long time."

HSM-41 re-evaluated processes, creating efficiencies at every level of operations, improving the quality of training provided and creating a command climate focused on excellence, safety and outstanding training. The squadron met all production and collateral goals, both internal and external, while consistently providing the best trained,

most prepared replacement pilots and aircrew to fleet squadrons. HSM-41 leadership also fostered a command environment with an emphasis on safety, quality training and on-time production.

"This squadron, far and away, was the best production squadron in the United States Navy last year," said Buss.

The current HSM-41 Sailor of the Year, Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Daniel Georgalas, Junior Sailors of the Year, Logistics Specialist 1st Class Cecile Ypon and Aircrewman 1st Class Nick Barringer, accepted the award on behalf of the squadron.

HSM-41's mission is to train naval aviators, aircrewmen, and aircraft maintainers to fight, fly and fix the MH-60R Seahawk helicopter.

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